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LETTER DATED 22 NOVEMBER 1994 FROM THE CHARGE D'AFFAIRES A.I.
OF THE PERMANENT MISSION OF YUGOSLAVIA TO THE UNITED NATIONS
ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

I have the honour to transmit, enclosed herewith, the statement of the Government of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, dated 21 November 1994 (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Dragomir DJOKIC
Ambassador
Chargé d'affaires a.i.

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Annex

The federal Government most strongly condemns the unjustified and irresponsible bombing of Udbina airport by North Atlantic Treaty Organization planes, and views it as the latest evidence of the one-sided and biased approach that the Security Council, under the influence of countries having their own strategic interests in the region, is exhibiting in the Yugoslav crisis. Such a course of action plays into the hands of extremists, threatens to render further peace efforts senseless, and leads the entire Yugoslav crisis into a new dark period, perhaps even to a war option of larger proportions. The federal Government therefore calls on all Member States of the Council to reconsider the decision on the expansion of the war operations beyond the territory of the former Bosnia and Herzegovina. Only the abandoning of that militant course can avert an unfavourable chain of events and save the peace process.

The federal Government remains deeply convinced that the civil war in the former Bosnia and Herzegovina cannot be resolved by its intensification, let alone its spreading to neighbouring areas, but exclusively by political means and just and lasting solutions based on compromise. In keeping with its peaceful policy, the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia will continue to strive towards such solutions.

The federal Government expresses its deepest concern over the one-sided and partial decision of the Security Council. Like previous decisions in critical moments of the crisis in Bosnia and Herzegovina, made on the basis of unverified information or planted misinformation, the Council reacted hastily on this occasion as well, trusting exclusively the information of only one side. The federal Government believes that there are no reasons nor trustworthy facts to accuse the Republic of Serb Krajina of involvement in the civil war in the former Bosnia and Herzegovina, nor for complaints regarding its attitude vis-à-vis forces of the United Nations Protection Force (UNPROFOR). The fact is taken lightly that since the adoption of the Vance Plan there has been not a single incident on the part of the Republic of Serb Krajina against UNPROFOR personnel or property. The fact is completely ignored that some 70,000 Moslems found refuge and protection in the Republic of Serb Krajina, fleeing the terror of the so-called Army of Bosnia and Herzegovina. The Council and the international community have completely ignored their plight and destiny. The Council is discriminating among the Moslems themselves, protecting only those under the power of the so-called Army of Bosnia and Herzegovina, while ignoring the Moslem population who fled to the Republic of Serb Krajina.

The fast intervention of the Security Council in favour of the so-called Army of Bosnia and Herzegovina, under the pretext of securing zones under United Nations protection, is at variance with the passive attitude of the Council a month earlier, when that Army abused the Bihac safe area to prepare and launch large-scale offensive military operations against the Army and citizens of the Republic of Srpska. The world Organization has, by its decision, instead of protecting Krajina, which enjoys its protection, put Krajina's peace and security in jeopardy.

Particularly worrisome is the fact that the decision on extending air strikes to include the Republic of Serb Krajina was made at a moment when the peace process in the former Bosnia and Herzegovina is seriously endangered by the decision of the United States of America to lift the embargo on imports of weapons for Bosnian Moslem and Croat forces, and when the Republic of Croatia is toughening its stance in negotiations with the Republic of Serb Krajina, making ultimatums and repeatedly reiterating threats on the so-called reintegration of Krajina by force.

Accordingly, the decision of the Security Council cannot be interpreted otherwise than as enabling the escalation of military activities in the former Bosnia and Herzegovina and their dangerous spreading outside the borders of the former Bosnia and Herzegovina.